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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: March 29, 2021

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT TITLE: Arts District/6th Street Station

FROM: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The Arts District/6th Street Station Project (Proposed Project) would construct a new Metro D Line (Purple) and/or B Line (Red) station to provide regional and local transit connections to and from the Arts District, Boyle Heights, and surrounding communities. The station would be located south of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Division 20 Rail Yard, and adjacent to existing tracks utilized by Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRRA), National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) Company. The Proposed Project would be generally bounded to the north by the 6th Street Bridge, to the south by 7th Street, to the east by the Los Angeles River, and to the west by Mesquit Street. **Figure 1** shows the footprint of the Project site and surrounding environmental setting.

PROJECT INITIATION: Metro, in coordination with the City of Los Angeles, has initiated a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Metro is the lead agency for the EIR. The Draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with Sections 15120 through 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to notify interested agencies, organizations, and individuals that Metro plans to prepare a Draft EIR, invite public participation in the EIR scoping process, and announce the public scoping meetings.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The Proposed Project would provide mobility and connectivity to an area currently underserved by local and regional transportation networks. More specifically, objectives include:

- Improving local and regional mobility and accessibility for the surrounding communities to the existing and future Metro transit network, including the long-term operational needs of Metro rail facilities;
- Integrating Metro's transit network with the 6th Street viaduct and other planned pedestrian and bicyclist improvements; and
- Providing a transit station that is compatible with surrounding projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Project would construct a heavy rail station to extend the current termini of the Metro B (Red) and/or D (Purple) Lines at Los Angeles Union Station. Although station access has not been finalized at this stage in the development process, it is anticipated that access will be from the north side of the station. Potential station access options could include a connection to Mesquit Street/Santa Fe Avenue through property owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The project will explore linking station access to adjacent projects, including 6th Street Viaduct connections to Mesquit Street, the City of Los Angeles 6th Street PARC (Park, Arts, River and Connectivity Improvements) Project, and the Metro Los Angeles River Path Project utilizing an inactive tunnel owned by the City of Los Angeles that connects Mesquit Street to the Los Angeles River underneath the existing rail yard. There may also be an opportunity to coordinate secondary access and/or an emergency access road with adjacent developments.

Existing track alignment would need to be revised to accommodate the Proposed Project. This may include new tail tracks, new crossover tracks, and relocating tracks owned by Metro, SCRRRA, Amtrak, and/or BNSF Company. The track relocations may also require partial acquisition of a parking area located on the east side of the Lucky Jeans Brand building. Ancillary facilities may include, but are not limited to, a traction power substation, operator facilities, benches, ticketing kiosks, and bicycle racks. The preliminary site plan is shown in **Figure 1**.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The purpose of the Draft EIR is to disclose the impacts of the Proposed Project on the environment. The Draft EIR will address all topics listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Key CEQA environmental factors to be addressed are shown below. Mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts during construction and operation will be identified in the Draft EIR.

- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Transportation
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Tribal Cultural Resources

Virtual Scoping Meetings: Metro will conduct two scoping meetings to notify interested agencies, organizations, and individuals that Metro plans to prepare a Draft EIR, invite public participation in the EIR scoping process, and solicit feedback related to the contents of the Draft EIR. The scoping meeting will be held online on Zoom and may be accessed as follows:

Virtual Scoping Meeting #1

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Link: bit.ly/3bEuF24

Passcode: 358321

Phone: +1 213 338 8477

Webinar ID: 979 0722 3534

Virtual Scoping Meeting #2

Saturday, April 17, 2021

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Link: bit.ly/3bEioL5

Passcode: 535774

Phone: +1 213 338 8477

Webinar ID: 973 3346 6750

Spanish and Japanese interpretation, including closed captioning, will be available during the virtual scoping meetings. All Metro meetings support needs associated with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Other ADA accommodations and translations are available by calling (213) 418-3423 or California Relay Service at 711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Comment Due Date: A 45-day comment period for this NOP will be accepted beginning on March 29, 2021 through May 12, 2021. Written comments on the scope of the Draft EIR, including the Project area and description, the impacts to be evaluated, and the methodologies to be used in the evaluation, will be accepted during the comment period and should be received by 11:59 pm PST on **May 12, 2021** at the postal address or e-mail address below. Comments may also be submitted through Metro website at <https://www.metro.net/projects/arts-dist-6th-station/>

Addresses: Written or electronic (e-mail) comments may be sent to Brian Lam, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-7, Los Angeles, CA 90012, via email at artdist6thstation@metro.net, or via an online comment form at metro.net/artsdist6thstation.net.

For more information, please visit metro.net/artsdist6thstation

Figure 1 – Proposed Project and Regional Setting

